

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD



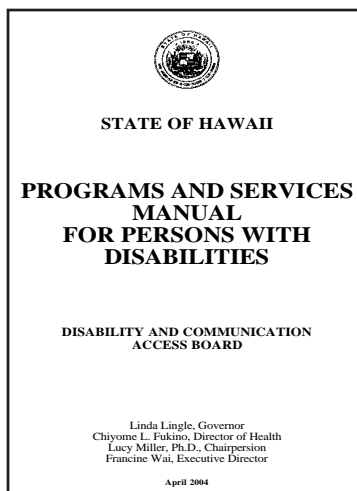
ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2003-2004



The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) seeks the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into society. To achieve this goal, the Board adopts a comprehensive Plan of Action for each fiscal year. This report highlights DCAB's most significant accomplishments towards meeting its annual goals and objectives.

CIVIL RIGHTS

- Coordinated the State's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance efforts with departments to ensure access to programs and services of Hawaii State government. Key issues for the State included emergency evacuation and disaster management, communication access, and implementation of the statewide transition plans. The most notable changes were in the Departments of Transportation, and Land and Natural Resources with the hiring of full-time ADA Coordinators in their respective departments.
- Facilitated County government compliance with the ADA through the staffing of quarterly meetings of County ADA Coordinators and the dissemination of information to each Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities. Key issues facing the counties were curb ramp transition plans, communication access (including captioned meetings), access to roadways, and access to parks and recreation services.



- Updated DCAB's "**Programs and Services Manual For Persons with Disabilities,**" which is a useful guide on providing access for persons with disabilities to all programs, services, and benefits of State government. This Manual is posted on the DCAB website.
- Implemented Year One of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) project grant with the State Office of Elections to increase access for persons with disabilities to the voting process. The project surveyed all polling places intended to be used in the 2004 elections; made recommendations for relocation or physical modifications of sites which were not accessible; trained polling precinct officials on providing access to voters with disabilities; recruited and trained consumers with disabilities to train other consumers on the voting process; and developed educational materials on access to the election process.
- Conducted seventeen (17) workshops or training sessions for various entities to inform them of their obligations under Titles II or III of the ADA (11 for government agencies and 6 for private entities). Also conducted eleven (11) workshops for consumers on their rights under disability laws, primarily the ADA.

FACILITY ACCESS

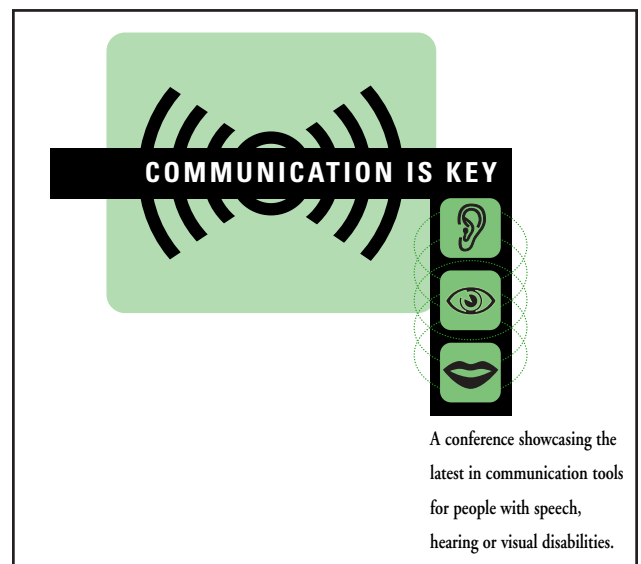
- Conducted 1,537 document reviews, of which 828 were unduplicated projects, under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §103-50 of buildings, facilities, and sites to ensure access for persons with disabilities. The largest number of State of Hawaii government projects submitted for review continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Departments of Accounting and General Services, Transportation, and Land and Natural Resources. The majority of County government projects are from the Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Departments. Schools, parks, and public rights-of-way, especially transition plan or architectural barrier removal projects, dominate the submittals. A separate Annual Report is available on DCAB's HRS § 103-50 review process.
- Issued thirteen (13) Interpretive Opinions of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for review under HRS §103-50 to clarify technical or scoping requirements, including opining on the equivalent facilitation of several design elements.
- Provided extensive technical assistance to the design community by fielding approximately 2,100 requests for guidance through our "design question fax line," and issuing two (2) "Access Bulletins."
- Prepared a review and comparison of the International Business Code (IBC) with the 1997 Uniform Building Code Chapter 11, ADAAG, and the Fair Housing Amendments Act Guidelines with recommendations to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the City and County of Honolulu for amendments to our County Building Code.
- Amended the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11, Chapters 216 and 217 to incorporate the Federal Fair Housing Guidelines into DCAB's review process.



COMMUNICATION ACCESS

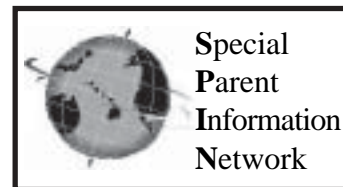


- Overhauled the State's Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) to test and credential sign language interpreters who do not possess national certification. Twelve (12) evaluators were trained on the new system.
- Administered six (6) HQAS tests to candidates for Hawaii sign language interpreter credentialing.
- Sponsored the '**Communication is Key**' conference in cooperation with Sprint Relay Hawaii and the Pacific ADA & IT Center to highlight the advances in communication technology and services, including interpreters, captioning, Braille, speech recognition, relay services, and video captioning.
- Continued to promote increase responsiveness of the Telecommunication Relay System (TRS), working with Sprint Relay Hawaii, the new TRS awardee from the Public Utilities Commission to provide relay services in Hawaii. DCAB assisted Sprint in the opening of the new call center in Hawaii and participated as an ex-officio member on the Sprint Relay Advisory Committee.



EDUCATION (Implemented through the Special Parent Information Network)

- Managed and operated the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) “warm line” responding to 2,258 requests for information on services from parents and professionals regarding the education and other needs of children with disabilities.
- Conducted the Annual SPIN Conference for 399 parents and professionals featuring twelve (12) workshops. These workshops provide extensive parent-professional collaboration as well as in-service training to professionals and outreach to parents.
- Published four (4) issues of the SPIN newsletter to provide information to all parents of children in the Department of Education on services and issues affecting the education of their children with special needs.
- Provided full administrative staff support for the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC).



PARKING

- Coordinated the administration of the parking program for persons with mobility limitations through memorandums of agreement with the counties to issue the parking placards and license plates on behalf of the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2003-2004, 16,706 four - year placards, 4,634 temporary placards , and 222 license plates were issued. DCAB obtained \$210,600 of funding for the counties to issue the placards on the State’s behalf, although the level of funding was restricted by 50% by the Administration despite legislative appropriation for the full amount.
- Adopted new administrative rules for the parking program for persons with disabilities under Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-219. The new rules allow Podiatrists to certify eligibility, include vascular condition as a qualifying disability, tighten enforcement in access aisles, and create a uniform replacement fee for placards.
- Implemented a quality assurance program to invalidate the placards of deceased persons, remove duplicate placards from circulation, and improve the statewide database of permittees. Since the program was initiated in September 2003, 302 letters of inquiry were sent, resulting in the return of 80 placards.
- Implemented a Parking Stall Design Notification Program to increase the number of compliant accessible parking stalls in the community. Since the program was initiated in June 2003, 25 letters were sent to businesses with follow-up to ensure appropriate design compliance.

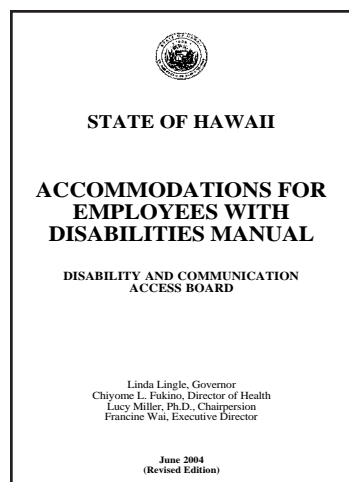


TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL (Non-Parking)



- Updated DCAB’s “**Traveler’s Tips**” to **Hawaii** publication for visitors with disabilities and posted it on the DCAB website.
- Completed DCAB’s “**Study of Driver’s Licensing Procedures Affecting Persons with Disabilities in the State of Hawaii**” (September 2003). The study highlighted problems with policies and procedures that require an assessment of the driving capabilities of an individual with disabilities that is higher than that required of the general population. This Study included recommendations on changes that the State Department of Transportation can make to their policy and procedures.

EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



- Revised DCAB's "Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities Manual" for employees in State government and posted the Manual on the DCAB website.
- Provided support and/or testimony on various community initiatives, the most significant being: Olmstead Task Force, Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee on Medicaid Waiver, Real Choices Advisory Committee, University of Hawaii Rehabilitation Counselor Education Advisory Committee, and the Respite Task Force.
- Provided training to six (6) agencies on ADA Title I requirements.
- Assisted the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division in the completion of a video to assist deaf consumers seeking employment.

OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Revised DCAB's newsletter, the **Ha'ilono Kina**, to focus specifically on DCAB activities and highlight recent projects. Three (3) issues were prepared in FY 2003-2004 and sent to approximately 2,500 individuals. Recent issues of the newsletter are also posted on the DCAB website in electronic format for wider viewing and dissemination.
- Responded to 4,736 requests for programs, services, and technical information from consumers, family members, and the general public. (Note: These numbers are in addition to the SPIN warm line and the Facility Access design question 'fax line'.)
- Updated DCAB's website to significantly expand the volume of information provided to the public on disability issues in Hawaii to include DCAB's revised publications, new administrative rules, interpretive opinions, manuals, disability statistics, and fact sheets.



DCAB BOARD MEMBERS

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FRANCINE AONA KENYON
MARIE KIMMEY

WILLIAM KOKI (as of 12/03)
STERLING KRYSLER
STEPHEN LARACUENTE (until 5/04)
NORMAN OLESEN
KRISTINE PAGANO (until 8/03)
CHRISTINA PILKINGTON

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD (DCAB)

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